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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

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FORM 54 51-10 PREVIOUS EDITIONS MAY BE USED

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1-2351

16 September 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

VIA:

Chief Operations/DD/P

SUBJECT:

Quality and future disposition of Arms Received by

Guatemala from the Ship AIFHEN

1. Following information is submitted in reply to telephonic request of C/OPS/DD/P on 15 September 1954.

a. General: The arms received were all of World War II surplus nature, the quality of which, while generally poor in contrast to U.S. arms, is considered to be comparable to the arms of other Latin American countries. Most of the arms observed gave evidence of either being used or badly stored prior to delivery. All seemed to be in serviceable condition.

None of the arms appeared to be of an advanced design with the possible exception of the 3000 semi-automatic rifles which could be considered in that category, although not of recent manufacture.

Artillery pieces gave evidence of having been used and reconditioned. They were of an old type with wooden wheels.

The arms, so far as can be determined, bore no identification or serial numbers, thus making future recognition comparatively easy.

b. Future usefulness:

The arms are believed to be useful largely from the standpoint of training rather than from the standpoint of equipping a tactical force. In the event of an emergency the arms would undoubtedly be satisfactory for troops.

I arms dealer is interested in procuring these arms from the Guatemalan Government for disposal outside the Western Hemisphere. Such a move was suggested by Ambassador Peurifoy and approved by the Department of State.

J. C. KING CHIEF, WH

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